

4 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Soviet Air Strength

REFERENCES: (a) Memorandum for the DD/I from the AD/NE, dated
16 May 1957 (TS 141586)

(b) Memorandum for the DD/I from OSI/ORR/OCI,
dated 30 April 1957 (SC Classification)

1. A TS memorandum for the DD/I from the AD/NE, dated 16 May (TS 141586), discusses the desirability of an interim revision of estimates on Soviet heavy bomber strength and refers to an OSI/ORR/OCI memorandum on this subject, dated 30 April 1957. The AD/NE's memorandum reviews the recent history of our estimates covering BISON, BEAR, and BADGER production, and briefly discusses the present situation with respect to these estimates. The memorandum concludes with the recommendation that ONE call for Agency contributions to the long-range aviation and other key military sections of NIE 11-4-57 about a month earlier than originally planned, or as soon as the Services have made their quarterly revisions as of 1 July 1957. This would permit a more thorough discussion of these topics ahead of the normal IAC Representatives meetings on 11-4.

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2. I discussed this with Scoville on 17 May, following discussions with Messrs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of this Office, and advised him that in so far as our contributions and participation were concerned the proposed scheduling would have some advantages. Scoville's concern centered on the fact that the changes in our estimates over the past six months or so were so significant that we really ought to turn out a coordinated revision of these estimates as promptly as possible and preferably ahead of the time schedule suggested by the AD/NE's memorandum. I believe he did feel that the downward revision of the heavy bomber estimate and the upward revision of our medium bomber estimate were in some respects compensating, and that therefore an immediate interagency revision of these estimates might be somewhat less compelling.

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3. On 18 May, I discussed this with both Amory and Kent, but these conversations were inconclusive. At the IAD luncheon on 31 May, the Assistant Directors again discussed this with Amory and the following course was agreed on:

a. After the 24 June Soviet air show, OGI will coordinate an internal paper on this general subject, highlighting whatever significant intelligence is derived from this show in relation to our current estimates.

b. As soon as the Air Force quarterly estimate of Soviet air strength covering the period up through 1 July 1957 is available, ONE will coordinate an internal CIA paper on this subject. Subsequent efforts to obtain a coordinated position will follow the suggestion laid down in Kent's memorandum.



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Acting Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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